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47 (New)

--A process for manufacturing a ^{liquid} bleaching composition, said process comprising the steps of:

- B1
Cont.
- i) mixing an aqueous solution of NaOCl wherein said NaOCl solution comprises from about 0.01% to about 10% available chlorine and NaBr to form a pre-mix;
 - ii) admixing an -NH₂ compound selected from the group consisting of sulphamic acid, sodium sulphamate, potassium sulphamate, sulfamide, p-toluenesulphonamide, imidodisulphonamide, benzenesulphonamide, melamine, cyanamide, alkyl sulfonamide, and mixtures thereof with a surfactant to form a surfactant containing -NH₂ admixture; and
 - iii) mixing said surfactant containing -NH₂ admixture from step (ii) to form a bleaching composition;

wherein the pH of said bleaching composition is greater than 11.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, and 11-27 have been canceled and Claims 28-47 substituted therefor. No Claims fee is due.

The Claims have been amended to particularly point out and to distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Antecedent basis for new Claims 28-47 is found throughout the specification and the original claims.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2 and 11-27 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. By the amendments herein, the Examiner's rejection is obviated.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claims under 35 USC § 112 is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, and 11-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. 3,583,922 McClain et al., issued June 8, 1971 (hereinafter "McClain '922") either alone or in view of U.S. 2,815,311 Ellis et al., issued December 3, 1957 (hereinafter "Ellis '311"). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

McClain '922 relates to solid alkaline cleaning compositions comprising a source of chlorine wherein said source excludes the hypochlorites, *inter alia*, NaOCl, of the present invention but instead derives the active chlorine solely from non-hypochlorite sources; see column 2, lines 25-36. The compositions of the present invention can be liquids unlike the compositions of McClain '922.

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McClain '922 does not require a source of bromine which is required by the process of the present invention.

Since McClain '922 does not deal with a process for forming a composition *per se*, McClain '922 does not deal with the criticality of the order of addition of ingredients which is essential to the present invention. The present invention discloses that the source of hypochlorite and the source of bromide *must* be combined together before either is combined with the -NH₂ compound.

Although McClain '922 discloses the use of sulphamate McClain '922 lacks the critical disclosure that is the -NH₂ moiety which is critical and thus provides no further -NH₂ comprising ingredients are suitable for use.

Ellis '311 relates to anhydrous compositions. Ellis '311 discloses at column 1, line 52:


Thus, the hypochlorite component must not readily pick up water from or lend water to the bromide compound, and vice versa; such solid compositions will be stable and the hypochlorite component therein will be capable of substantially maintaining its normal stability.

Ellis '311, therefore, teaches away from the present invention wherein the source of hypochlorite is preferably an aqueous solution of NaOCl. The present application recites at page 4, line 3:

The concentration level of hypochlorite in step (I) is not restricted to the levels commercially available to the formulator but may also comprise concentrations produced by a manufacturing -site process, for example, the passing of chlorine gas into an alkaline aqueous solution.

The pH requirement of in the Claims of the present invention indicates the final composition to be aqueous-based.

The disclosure of McClain '922 is wholly inadequate to compel one of ordinary skill in the art to form a bleaching composition by a process which requires the pre-mixing of a source of hypochlorite and a source of bromine prior to addition of an -NH₂ compound. Ellis '311 serves no other purpose than to act as a reference which discloses the combination of a source of bromine and a sulphamate, and the combination of the subject matter of McClain '922 and Ellis '311 does not make the teachings of McClain '922 any more germane to the issue of non-obviousness as it relates to the present invention, than if McClain '922 stood alone; and McClain '922 wholly insufficient as a compelling instrument which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the Applicants' present invention.




Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claims under 35 USC § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the amendments provided herewith, reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the Remarks provided, withdrawal of the claims rejections, and allowance of Claims 28-47, as amended, are respectfully requested. In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, then the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned agent to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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